

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of October 24, 2005**

1. Staff Move Update: City staff has been moving into offices on the first and third level of the new part of the building this week. Staff is still working on getting the new spaces set up and putting up directional signs. The building will be closed this weekend, except for several scheduled programs, but should be more fully operational beginning Monday. On Tuesday (while schools are out), some traffic pattern changes will be made so that cars will be able to enter the new front parking lot from Maple Avenue. The building will still be under construction for another seven months or so, renovating the area that formally housed City staff. Because of this, getting in and around the building is confusing. Please be patient while we work to make the building a friendly place!

(Community & Government Liaison)

2. Street Restoration (Ward 1): Curb work will resume on Park Avenue next week, and will include the installation of a curb extension at Philadelphia and Park Avenues.

(Public Works)

3. Handicap Ramps: Ramps are being installed at the rear of the Library and the side of the Municipal Building adjacent to the doors closest to the elevator. *(Public Works)*

4. Stormwater System Improvements (Ward 2): The installation of a new drain pipe on Heather Alley and Heather Avenue is complete. Minor backfilling and site clean up will be completed on Friday and Monday. Curbs and a new stormwater inlet are being installed behind the new Computer Learning Center. This should correct the ponding water situation and improve drainage for the parking lot. *(Public Works)*

5. Town Hall Meeting on Gang Activities: The public forum that was held last night on Gang Activities: Prevention & Intervention was noted as one of the best ever held in the area. Guest speakers included were: Mr. Luis Cardona, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator, for Montgomery County Health & Human Services; Mr. Stephen Bedford, Community Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools; Mr. Terry Johnsson, Pastor for Youth, Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church; Candace Kattar, Executive Director, Identity, Inc.; and, Gabriel Alborn, Executive Director, Latin-American Youth Center. Mayor Porter welcomed the speakers; Chief of Police Cindy Creamer gave a brief statement; and Councilmember Doug Barry, Ward 6, presided as moderator.

(Executive Assistant)

6. Money for the Library: Friends of Mike Morrissey visited the Library on Friday October 28 to present Director Ellen Robbins and Friends of the Library Board President Sonja Kueppers with a check for \$5000, proceeds from the October 3rd golf tournament in memory of former resident and book lover Morrissey. This is the 4th tournament honoring Morrissey and raising funds for the City Library. The group's donations have totaled more than \$15,000. *(Library)*

7. Ghost Stories and College Bound: Approximately 40 parents and children were entertained (and frightened) by Halloween tales told by Candace Wolf on October 27th. A story about Candace was featured in this week's Takoma "Gazette". At the same time, several families heard educator Judith Bass discuss college choices for AD/HD students in the new learning center. Bass's program concluded the College Bound Speakers series, funded through the Friends of the Library, as was the Halloween program. *(Library)*

8. New Trees at the City Building: Last week 10 trees were planted on the new city building grounds. Six serviceberries were planted in the lower level, one red maple was planted by the exit at Grant Avenue and 3 sourwoods were planted in front of the library. Many more trees will be planted when the construction is complete and the plant material arrives from the nurseries. *(City Arborist)*

9. Quarterly Tree Permit Report: **(See attached report from the City Arborist)**

10. Community Center's First Class: Collage with Katie Dell Kaufman started this Wednesday in the Art Room. It was the first class to have started in the new Community Center. Seven very eager students did not let a fire alarm or the kiln delivery disrupt their creative energy. **Please see attached photo.** *(Recreation)*

11. Fun Day Trips: Fun Day Trips so far this year have been very successful! The last three trips we reached our capacity. We are looking forward to our next trip to see Cinderella at BAPA's Imagination Stage and Ice Skating in Rockville next Tuesday, November 1. *(Recreation)*

12. Halloween Hauntings: The Recreation Department is holding its annual Halloween activities this Saturday, October 29, 2005. The first event to kick off the afternoon is the new Canine Costume Contest which begins at 3:00 p.m. in Heffner Community Center. The Costume Contest (for people!) at 5:00 p.m. in Old Town. The Parade will follow at approximately 5:45. Join the crowd at Piney Branch Elementary School to enjoy "Zydeco Crayz" jam to their rattle boards, accordion, and drums at 6:30 p.m. *(Recreation)*

13. Recreation Seniors: Once a month the Seniors go on a day trip. This month the group enjoyed the scenery along the highway as they traveled to Charlestown Races and Slots. After they spent their quarters, they went out for lunch and returned home. *(Recreation)*

14. The Knitting Group: The Senior Intermediate Knitting group is making winter scarves and hats. Knitting is a real challenge for those who have limited hand and wrist movement. Projects will be completed soon. *(Recreation)*

15. The Gardner's Report: July to October 2005 (please see attached report)

16. Gateway Signage: The City obtained final approval of the design and locations of the proposed signage from the Historic Preservation Commission this past Wednesday. Sign approval is still required from State Highway for selected signs. *(Housing and Economic Development)*

17. Business Financial Incentives Fair (Wards 2, 3, and 6): The HCD Department is hosting a Financial Incentives Fair for Takoma Park businesses located in the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue and Piney Branch/Flower Avenue corridors on Tuesday, November 1, at the Takoma Park Recreation Center from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Speakers will provide information on tax incentives for business expansion and improvements including those that has occurred in past tax years. Additional information will be offered on business training, security, and other area related business resources. For more details, please contact David Suls, Associate Planner, at 301.891.7219 or by email at DavidS@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

18. Walkable Communities Workshops: Workshops were held Monday and Tuesday to investigate next steps for Piney Branch, Carroll Avenue, Flower Avenue, and Langley Park. Staff will be working on preparing items for the Council after the new year. For more information please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219 or DavidS@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

19. Accreditation: Nearly three years ago, the police department began a process with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), seeking accredited status for the department. A team of assessors performed an on-site review of the police department between October 23 and October 26. In addition to checking files, and observing the work of the employees, the on-site team received comments from the community during a public hearing and a public call in period. The on-site team will be recommending the Commission award accredited status to the department. The recommendation will be presented to the Commission at a conference in March. *(Police)*

20. A Homicide in Takoma Park: On October 24, 2005, police responded to a wooded area in the 1100 block of Linden Avenue, for the report of a dead body. The 20 year old Hispanic man's death has been ruled a homicide by the medical examiner's office. The investigation is being investigated collaboratively by Takoma Park investigators and Park Police (Montgomery County Division) investigators. Although details of the investigation remain confidential, the community is not considered to be at risk while the investigation continues. *(Police)*

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The City Gardner's Report: July to October 2005

- a. July, 26th the Gardens staff worked in cooperation with city resident, Shannon Greenspan and her landscape designer, Dianne Seiffert and landscaper, Jim du Fief in a donation of 75 shrubs and well over a thousand perennials. These gifts will be utilized in city gardens this fall.
- b. August, 29th about 75 Business, Society and Economy students from the College Park Scholars program participated in a Service Day at Hodges Field Park. Weeding, vine removal, and mulching was performed by all students as a contribution to the community.
- c. September 29th the Gardens staff completed the removal and transporting of 12 large azalea specimens to the city as donated by city resident, Ellen Coon, of 7112 Cedar Avenue.
- d. October, 5th the Gardens staff worked with 40 students and advisors from Columbia Union College performing community hours during their annual Service Day event. Gardens located at Forest Park were weeded, tree stump cavities were filled with topsoil, back park locations were provided mulch and perennials were planted during this year's event.
- e. October 15th about 40 citizens, young and adult, provided garden labor in establishing a new landscape design for Takoma Elementary School located on Holly Avenue. Sally Kern, resident of Takoma Park and parent of a student at the school, was designated by the school's PTA to complete this landscape work as a partner with city staff.
- f. October 19th and November 2nd about 12 members of Girl Scout Troop #2986 performed garden tasks as weed and English ivy removal from the Thomas-Seigler garden. Troop leader for this event is Winifred Neunzig, resident of Takoma Park.
- g. October 27th the Gardens staff completed the removal and transporting of 6 large azaleas plants to city property as donated by Jeanette Honsa of Silver Spring.

(Public Works)

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Quarterly Tree Permit Report

Tree Permit Applications	07/01/05-09/30/05	Year to Date
Applications Received	80	231
Permits (# of Trees)	44	137
Waivers (# of Trees)	50	123
Emergency Waivers Received	3	14
Denials (# of Trees)	13	27
Tree Protection Plans	6	27

(City Arborist)

